

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 161737

70

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USLO PEKING

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM

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UNCLAS STATE 161737

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PAGE 02 STATE 161737

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 15 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. NYT, SUN (SEIDEN), WP, PHINQ, CHITRIB AND CSM (SOUTHERLAND) FRONT-PAGE END OF US BOMBING IN CAMBODIA, AND OF 10-YR. ASIAN WAR FOR US. MOST DESCRIBE FINAL RAIDS AS INTENSE, WITH PP CALM AT END. FANK NOW ON ITS OWN WITH ARTILLERY AND ITS SMALL AIR FORCE TO FILL IN FOR US AIR POWER. FANK BELIEVES IT CAN ADJUST TO CHANGE. US ASSISTANCE AND PRESENCE WILL CONTINUE. WAR HAS SETTLED DOWN TO SMALL CLASHES AND FURTHER INSURGENT PUSH AGAINST PP MAY BE WEEKS AWAY. US BOMBING HELPED, BUT MANY SEE SITUATION AS GLOOMY AND FUTURE OF GKR AS INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN. HEAVY RAINS MAY DELAY MAJOR INSURGENT ACTION UNTIL DEC. (ALSO, NYDN, AP; GREENWAY, WP).

2. MOST PAPERS REPORT PRESENCE OF 200 FOREIGN PRESS AND CAMERAMEN IN PP FOR BOMBING HALT.

3. REP. WOLFF SAYS FANK MORALE IS "STRENGTHENED" BY FACT "THEY WILL NOW BE GOING IT ALONE" (SOUTHERLAND).

4. PHINQ, SUN (REUTER), WP (GETLER), CHITRIB (FARRER) CARRY SUMMARIES OF BOMBING ACTIVITY POINTING UP THAT US DROPPED IN INDOCHINA THREE TIMES WWII AND TEN TIMES KOREAN WAR TONNAGE, WITH BOMBS DROPPED IN CAMBODIA IN PAST SIX MONTHS EQUALLING WWII TONNAGE ON JAPAN. ALMOST 7.5 MILLION TONS DROPPED IN PAST TEN YEARS, WITH COST OF AIR WAR ABOUT \$17 BILLION.

5. CRITCHFIELD (CSM), MARKS (PHINQ) AND NYDN (UPI) REPORT US AIRMEN HAPPY OVER BOMBING END WITH MANY LOOKING TOWARD RETURNING HOME. USUALLY COOL AND PROFESSIONAL, SOME HAVE WORRIED ABOUT POOR QUALITY OF CAMBODIAN INTELLIGENCE ON WHICH STRIKES WERE BASED AND LACK OF POST-STRIKE BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT.

6. NIXON ADMIN PLEDGES GKR ALL ASSISTANCE ALLOWED BY LAW. UNARMED RECON AND TRANSPORT SORTIES CONTINUE. UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 161737

FUTURE OF LON NOL REGIME UNCERTAIN (GWERTZMAN, NYT; CARTER, NYDN).

7. ABSENT SKOUN COMMANDER JAILED BY GKR (WP, UPI). HIGH-RANKING INSURGENT DEFECTOR HEAN CHIT WHO CLAIMS

HE COMMANDED 6,000 MEN, SAYS US BOMBING INEFFECTIVE AGAINST TROOPS, REBELS WANT TO OCCUPY PP BEFORE YEAR-END, AND HE HAD ORDERS TO SHOOT CAPTURED NEWSMEN (WP; UPI NYT, CHITRIB).

8. AMEMBASSY SAIGON AND GVN DENY AP SAIGON REPORT THAT SEVERAL THOUSAND ETHNIC KHMER ARVN SOLDIERS

WERE RECENTLY FLOWN TO PP TO HELP SUPPORT GKR, WITH 5,800 OTHERS ON ALERT (PHINQ; WP; CSM; NYT; CHITRIB).

9. KIRK (CHITRIB) TELLS OF CAMBODIAN MONTAGNARDS FROM VC/NVA-OCCUPIED AREAS IN FANK DEFENDING PP.

10. IRAN ACCEPTED AS FOURTH MEMBER ICCS REPLACING CANADA. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT HELD UP TO WORK OUT CERTAIN DETAILS OF PUBLIC STATEMENT (SUN, REUTER; AP WP, NYT, CHITRIB).

11. RISING PRICES AND REDUCED IMPORTS OF CONSUMER GOODS GENERATE INFLATION AND GROWING UNREST IN SVN. FOREIGN EXCHANGE GOES FOR MACHINERY, INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS. GASOLINE BEING CONSERVED BY ENCOURAGING BICYCLES AND NEARLY DOUBLING PRICE (CHITRIB, AP).

THAILAND

12. WP STORY SAYS SFRC NOTIFIED JUNE 22 OF WH INTENTION NAMING WM. KINTNER US AMBASSADOR TO RTG, AND BANGKOK LAST WEEK AGREED ACCEPT HIM. BUT SENATE SOURCES SAY SFRC APPROVAL MAY HANG ON EFFECTIVENESS OF CUT-OFF ON ALL US INDOCHINA COMBAT ACTIVITIES LAST NIGHT,

AND PATTERN OF INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS IN NEXT FEW UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 161737

WEEKS.

13. CHITRIB'S CRITCHFIELD, AT UTAPAO, FINDS B-52 CREWS WAR-WEARY AND WELCOMING TERMINATION CAMBODIA BOMBING AND POSSIBILITY RETURNING HOME. BUT COMMANDERS CAUTION THEY HAVE "ABSOLUTELY NO KNOWLEDGE" OF ANY PLANNED PHASE-DOWN OR WITHDRAWAL FROM THAILAND. SOME SEE SHIFT FROM COMBAT TO TRAINING OPERATIONS AT UTAPAO THAT COULD CONTINUE FOR LONG TIME. CREWS DENY THAT QUESTIONING OF BOMBING EFFECTIVENESS HAS PLAYED ANY PART IN THEIR GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED DEMORALIZATION; BUT THEY ADMIT INTELLIGENCE FROM CAMBODIA IS VERY WEAK, AND THAT OUTSIDE OF LIMITED US RECON FLIGHTS THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT. CRITCHFIELD REPORTS THAT MOST CURIOUS THING ABOUT CREWS, "OR PERHAPS NOT SO CURIOUS," IS WAY THEY SEEMED WANT TO SHUT THEIR MINDS TO ANYTHING ABOUT CAMBODIA OR REST OF INDOCHINA.

KOREA

14. NYT QUOTES UNIDENTIFIED DOS SPOKESMAN DEPLORING KIM DAE JUNG KIDNAPPING AND HOPING ROKG WILL FIND AND PUNISH THOSE RESPONSIBLE. SOURCE ADDS THAT US

INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES, UNDERSTOOD TO INCLUDE FBI, ARE CONTINUING PROBE OF ROK CIA ACTIVITIES IN US, AND US HAS MADE SEVERAL REPRESENTATIONS TO SK EMBASSY. SAYS KIM WELCOME VISITOR TO US, "AND WE HOPE NOTHING INTERFERES WITH HIS FREEDOM TO RETURN HERE."

15. IN TOKYO, SUN'S PEPPER CITES OHIRA'S REMARKS THAT GOJ WILL ASK SK COOPERATION IN PROBING ALLEGED KIM ABDUCTION FROM JAPANESE TERRITORY AND THAT, PENDING FULL INQUIRY, HE HAS NO WAY KNOWING IF INCIDENT WILL DEVELOP INTO SK-JAPAN POLITICAL OR DIPLOMATIC CRISIS (ALSO, NYT). FM'S "CAREFULLY WORDED REMARKS," PEPPER OBSERVES, REPRESENT "RETREAT FROM EARLIER, OFF-THE-CUFF REACTION LATE MONDAY NIGHT" WHEN JAPANESE POLITICIANS SUCH AS KIYOSHI MIZUNO EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE AT ROKG'S POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT IN KIM DISAPPEARANCE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 161737

16. WITH PEPPER, WP'S OBERDORFER (IN TOKYO) REPORTS JAPANESE OFFICIALS DOUBT THAT SK WILL COMPLY WITH GOJ REQUEST THAT KIM REVISIT JAPAN TO ASSIST INVESTIGATION OF HIS ABDUCTION. OBERDORFER NOTES US EMBASSY IN TOKYO HAS ONLY ASKED INFORMATION ON INCIDENT AND IS VIEWING IT AS MATTER BETWEEN SK AND JAPAN. OBSERVES ALSO THAT SK HAS YET MADE NO EFFORT TO ARREST KIM OR BLOCK HIS CONTACT WITH FRIENDS OR PRESS, ALTHOUGH "OTHER POLITICAL LEADERS AND EVEN ORDINARY CITIZENS HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED" IN SK SINCE OCT. "FOR SAYING FAR LESS" ABOUT NATION'S RULERS THAN KIM HAS NEARLY EVERY DAY IN US AND JAPAN.

17. NYT'S HALLORAN, IN SEOUL, REPORTS KIM DAE JUNG'S RECITAL LAST NIGHT OF HIS ABDUCTION. KIM CONTENTS IT WAS CARRIED OUT BY PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION, WITH CAREFUL PLANNING AND SKILLED EXECUTION. WHILE NOT IDENTIFYING ROK CIA AS RESPONSIBLE FOR KIDNAPPING, KIM "LEFT LITTLE ROOM FOR ANY OTHER CONCLUSION." AND "THAT ASSESSMENT WAS SUPPORTED IN TOKYO BY SOURCES WITH ACCESS TO REPORTS OF JAPANESE POLICE AUTHORITIES." KIM CONTENTS THAT ONLY UNFORESEEN POSSIBILITY OF SERIOUSLY DAMAGING SK-JAPANESE RELATIONS PREVENTED ABDUCTORS FROM KILLING HIM.

CHINA

18. CHINESE-AMERICAN MEDICAL RESEARCHER, FORMERLY WITH NIH, REPORTS HE VISITED MAO 12 DAYS AGO, FOUND HIM IN EXCELLENT HEALTH AND MENTALLY ALERT (AP, SUN). FORMER MEMBER OF MOZAMBIQUE LIBERATION FRONT CLAIMS PRC MILITARY "ADVISORS" ARE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE FRELIMO GUERRILLAS AGAINST PORTUGUESE (WP).

19. IN SECOND DAY OF UNSC DEBATE, PRC JOINS UK, AUSTRALIA, FRANCE IN CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR FORCING ARAB JETLINER DOWN LAST FRIDAY AFTER INTERCEPTING IT OVER LEBANON (CHITRIB, BUTLER).

PHILIPPINES

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 161737

20. TWO MILITARY TRIBUNALS ASSIGNED TO TRY 10 PERSONS, INCLUDING PROMINENT FILIPINOS AND 3 AMERICANS, ON CHARGES OF ATTEMPTING TO KILL MARCOS, INFORMED SOURCES REPORT (NYT).

NEW ZEALAND

21. FIRE DAMAGED US CONSULATE AT CHRISTCHURCH YESTERDAY AFTER GASOLINE BOMB WAS THROWN AT IT FROM SPEEDING CAR. MAN AND WOMAN ARRESTED WHEN SECURITY TRUCK DRIVER SAW CAR DRIVE AWAY FROM BURNING BUILDING AT HIGH SPEED (WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

22. CLAYTON FRITCHEY (WP) SAYS END OF US BOMBING MEANS RELIEF FOR POOR CAMBODIANS; ALSO MEANS THAT UNCONSTITUTIONAL WARMAKING BY WILLFUL PRES. CAN

BE CURBED WHEN CONGRESS HAS COURAGE TO ASSERT ITSELF. CITES WILLIAM S. WHITE AS COMING UP WITH BEST EPITAPH ON CAMBODIA: "SO IT IS THAT THE MOST 'CONTROVERSIAL' FOREIGN MILITARY POLICY IN ALL OUR HISTORY IS DYING IN WHAT EVEN ITS OLDEST DEFENDERS - INCLUDING IN HIS SMALL WAY, THIS DEFENDER - ARE COMPELLED IN THEIR HEARTS TO RECOGNIZE AS ONLY DUST AND ASHES." LAT'S JOHN ROOTS FEELS SIHANOUK IS GENUINE NON-COMMUNIST CAMBODIAN PATRIOT AND EXPRESSES CONVICTION SIHANOUK IS ONE WITH WHOM US SHOULD BE MAKING COMMON CAUSE (PHINQ).

23. NYDN, REFERRING TO CAMBODIAN SITUATION, MAKES CHARGE THAT NVN'S REFUSAL TO TAKE EVEN HALF-STEP TOWARD TRUCE HAS BEEN MOST FLAGRANT OF ITS MANY BLATANT VIOLATIONS OF JAN. AGREEMENT. WITH BOMBING HALTED, US FINDS ITSELF WITHOUT CARDS OR CHIPS IN ANY DICKERING OVER CAMBODIA'S UNCERTAIN FUTURE. ACES ARE IN HANDS OF COMMUNISTS AND THEIR FAVORITE CLIENT, SIHANOUK --WIDELY KNOWN AS "SNOOKY" BUT WHO MIGHT BETTER BE CALLED "SNEAKY." PROSPECT OF UNDERMINING HARD-WON PEACE WITH HONOR DOESN'T UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 161737

FAZE APPEASERS, WHO FAVORED SURRENDER ALL ALONG. SAYS APPEASERS HAVING JERKED INDOCHINA POLICY INITIATIVE FROM PRES., "WE HOPE THEY WILL AT LEAST BE MEN ENOUGH TO ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY IF WORST COMES TO WORST." IN AFTERMATH OF BOMBING HALT, SUN EXPRESSES REASONABLE HOPE THAT US PUBLIC OPINION WILL PREVENT CONTINUED DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN SEA CIVIL WARS, AND POINTS OUT NEED TO PREVENT COMPENSATING DEEPENING OF INDIRECT MILITARY INVOLVEMENT THROUGH PROVOCATIVE RECON FLIGHTS, MASSIVE INPUTS OF DEADLY HARDWARE AND RELIANCE ON US-FINANCED MERCENARIES. SAYS US COURSE IN DIFFICULT MONTHS AHEAD MUST NOT BE BUG-OUT ON SITUATION FOR WHICH WE BEAR TERRIBLE RESPONSIBILITIES. "WE MUST DO OUR UTMOST THROUGH DIPLOMATIC MEANS TO DECREASE THE LEVEL OF CONFLICT AND TURN OUR ENERGIES TO THE PEACEFUL REBUILDING OF THE INDOCHINA NATIONS." ABOUT ONLY CHANCE TO SALVAGE CAMBODIA SITUATION, ACCORDING CHITRIB, IS TO BRING BACK SIHANOUK. HE MIGHT ACHIEVE SOME KIND OF INTERNAL BALANCE WITHOUT DOMINATION FROM HANOI, BUT COMMUNIST INFLUENCE AND PRESSURE ON HIM WILL BE STRONG. NOTES COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN CAMBODIA WOULD HAVE REVERBERATIONS IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES SUCH AS BURMA, MALAYSIA, THAILAND, WHICH HAVE COMMUNIST INSURGENTS. FINDS FEW PLUSES IN DIRECT MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN SEA, EXCEPT THAT GVN STILL STANDS. PHINQ CALLS ENTIRE INDOCHINA ADVENTURE "TRAGIC BLUNDER OF MONUMENTAL PROPORTIONS," AND POINTS OUT DANGEROUS POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF "ORGY OF RECRIMINATIONS" WHICH PRES. WARNED AGAINST IN VN CONTEXT. ADVISES WE "NOT PROLONG THE TRAGEDY WITH ACCUSATIONS AS TO 'WHO LOST CAMBODIA' FOR, AS IN THE CASE OF CHINA A GENERATION AGO, CAMBODIA WAS NEVER OURS TO LOSE."

24. S-N'S ARBUCKLE (AUG. 14), IN VIENTIANE, SEES STUMBLING BLOCK TO EARLY LAOS SETTLEMENT AS SOUVANNA'S STRUGGLE TO KEEP HIS COUNTRY UNDIVIDED AND HIS INSISTENCE ON FREE MOVEMENT OF POPULATION, WHILE PL WANT DIVISION OF TERRITORY AND POPULATION CIRCULATION IS ANATHEMA TO PL SYSTEM. CITES DIPLOMATS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 161737

AS SAYING THAT WITH PROTOCOLS FOR NEW LAOS GOVERNMENT STILL UNSIGNED, FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT MAY BE EVEN FURTHER OFF. THIS IN TURN DELAYS START OF 60-DAY WITHDRAWAL FOR N VIETNAMESE, THAI AND HANDFUL US MILITARY. SIXTY DAYS BEGIN ONLY WITH ACTUAL FORMATION AND SEATING OF NEW GOVERNMENT.

VIENTIANE MILITARY CIRCLES SUSPECT THAT EVEN IF PROTOCOLS FOR NEW GOVERNMENT ARE SIGNED, NEW GOVERNMENT MAY NEVER SIT. SUSPICION BASED ON TALK-FIGHT APPROACH USED IN PAST BY COMMUNISTS.

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25. S-N'S ORR KELLY (AUG. 14) RECALLS THAT WHILE CONGRESS ORDERED CAMBODIA BOMBING HALT, IT PERMITTED CONTINUED DELIVERY OF BOTH MILITARY SUPPLIES AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND CONTINUED RECON FLIGHTS - ALL BY UNARMED PLANES. CITES DOD SOURCES AS SAYING THERE MAY BE ONE DAILY INTELLIGENCE FLIGHT AND 6 TO 12 SUPPLY FLIGHTS INVOLVING C130 TRANSPORT PLANES, BUT IF ANY DOUBT ABOUT GKR CONTROL ON GROUND, PLANES WILL NOT LAND. SOURCES ARE REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT RECON AND SUPPLY EFFORTS CAN BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT CONFRONTATION WITH KI. ONE REASON FOR CONFIDENCE IS THAT KI HAVE FEW, IF ANY, EFFECTIVE AA WEAPONS. BY FLYING AT REASONABLE HEIGHTS AND LANDING ONLY AT FIELDS IN FIRM GKR CONTROL, LS PILOTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP TO MINIMUM CHANCES BEING SHOT AT AND HIT.

26. LAT'S GEORGE MCARTHUR (AUG 14), IN SAIGON, ASKS WHAT ICCS HAS BEEN DOING SINCE CANDEL'S DEPARTURE AND GETS REPLY FROM US OFFICIAL THAT POLES AND HUNGARIANS "HAVE BEEN PLAYING VOLLEYBALL AND THE INDONESIANS HAVE BEEN KEEPING SCORE." OFFICIALS CONCEDE THAT SEVERAL MORE WEEKS OF VOLLEYBALL ARE IN PROSPECT BEFORE ICCS COULD RESUME EVEN MINIMAL FUNCTIONS. DESPITE GLOOMY PROSPECTS, HOWEVER, NOBODY THINKING OF LETTING ICCS DIE. NOTES IT HAS RUN UP \$10 MILLION DEBT WHICH CANNOT BE SETTLED UNTIL PARIS SIGNATORIES APPROVE \$43 MILLION ICCS BUDGET SUBMITTED JUST BEFORE CANDEL WITHDREW. GOOD BIT OF DEBT OWED AIR UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 161737

AMERICA.

27. LAT'S LESLIE (AUG. 14), IN PP, CITES FOREIGN MILITARY EXPERT'S PREDICTION THAT KI WILL COME BACK TO ATTACK IN 10 OR 15 DAYS AFTER BOMBING HALT, AND WITH SAME PRESSURE THEY WERE EXERTING TWO WEEKS AGO. BUT NO CONSENSUS ON TACTICS KI MIGHT USE IF AND WHEN THEY DECIDE INTENSIFY PP PRESSURE. INDICATES THAT WITHOUT US AIR SUPPORT, FANK MUST DO MORE DIRECT FIGHTING WITH ATTENDANT RISK HIGH CASUALTIES. HOW FANK REACTS TO HIGH LOSSES MAY BE CRUCIAL QUESTION OVER NEXT FEW WEEKS. LIKELY STRATEGY FOR KI MIGHT BE STRIKE AT ONE OR TWO KEY POINTS, HOPING BREAK THROUGH DEFENSIVE LINE. MOST PROBABLE FRONT FOR KI ATTACK IS W. AND NW LINE OF DEFENSE AROUND PP. UNLIKE OTHER APPROACHES TO PP, THIS ONE DOES

NOT INVOLVE CROSSING RIVERS, IS ON RELATIVELY HIGH GROUND WHICH SHOULD BE UNAFFECTED BY MONSOON RAINS. IN ADDITION, POCHENG TONG, WHICH OBSERVERS BELIEVE KI WILL TRY KNOCK OUT, IS NOT FAR FROM WESTERN FRONT. IN SEPARATE PIECE, LESLIE REPORTS EXPECTATION OF MOST PEOPLE THAT FIGHTING WILL INTENSIFY AGAIN AND THAT THEY LACK CONFIDENCE IN FANK'S ABILITY DEFEND PP.

28. CDN'S LARRY GREEN (AUG. 10), IN PP, BELIEVES BOMBING HALT IN CAMBODIA WILL HAVE SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON FANK. DRAWS CONCLUSION ON BASIS OF INTERVIEW WITH SEVERAL OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN AT KEY DEFENSIVE POSITIONS AROUND PP; SAYS THEY DISPLAY LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITY TO FIGHT WITHOUT AIR SUPPORT.

29. GLOBE'S JHABVALA (AUG. 14) SEES US FACING EXCEEDINGLY BLEAK SITUATION IN CAMBODIA. MILITARILY, US AND GKR HAVE BEEN UNABLE STOP COMMIE SWEEPS AND DIPLOMATICALLY THEIR PLIGHT IS BEYOND SALVAGE. SITUATION WEIGHS HEAVILY AGAINST US PRESTIGE IN ASIA AND AMONG ITS ALLIES AND THREATENS REEDY STRUCTURE OF ASIAN PEACE. PROSPECTS ARE, AT BEST, FOR UNHAPPY COEXISTENCE WITH PRO-COMMUNIST REGIME IN PP. AT WORST, US MAY FIND ITSELF INVOLVED IN SEA MORASS ONCE AGAIN - NOT WITH TROOPS BUT THROUGH HEAVY MILITARY AND ECON AID EXPENDITURES TO REGIMES THAT HAVE NOT PROVEN THEIR ABILITIES TO UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 161737

SUSTAIN THEMSELVES. EXTENT OF FUTURE INVOLVEMENT WILL DEPEND ON HOW HARD HANOI PUSHES AGAINST SVN AND HOW EFFECTIVE RESTRAINTS APPLIED BY CHINA AND USSR. FAILURE OF US AND LON NOL TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES FOR CAMBODIA IS RECORD OF MISCALCULATIONS AND MISAPPRAISALS. CITES US AS GIVING LON NOL CHANCE TO SURVIVE, MAYBE WEEK, MAYBE LONGER; BUT NO APPRAISAL ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS THEREAFTER.

30. GKR EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE A. GAFFAR PEANG-METH, IN LETTER TO SUN, REBUTS JOE KRAFT AUG. 9 COLUMN THAT QUESTIONED WHETHER IT REALLY MATTERS IF CAMBODIA GOES COMMUNIST. IN LETTER TO NYT, PRESS ATTACHE ALSO ANSWERS ANTHONY LEWIS' RECENT COLUMN CAPTIONED "BECAUSE IT IS THERE." REFERRING TO CONGRESSIONAL DENIAL OF AIR SUPPORT TO CAMBODIA, SAYS IF THE US GROWS WEARY OF AIDING ITS FRIENDS, SOMEDAY IT WILL FIND ITSELF STANDING ALONE.

31. EVANS/NOVAK (WP) ATTRIBUTE TO WATERGATE AND SUBSEQUENT CAMBODIA BOMBING BAN BY CONGRESS, PEKING'S CALLING OFF MANSFIELD'S SECOND PEKING VISIT TO MEET SIHANOUK. SAY IF CONGRESS HAD NOT FORCED BOMBING BAN, US AND CHINA COULD HAVE CONTRIVED END TO CAMBODIAN SECTOR OF INDOCHINA WAR BY MID-SEPTEMBER WITH SIHANOUK,

BACKED BY WASHINGTON AND PEKING, RESTORED TO CAMBODIA
AND GROWTH OF NVN POWER THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA PENINSULA AT
LEAST TEMPORARILY STOPPED. SAY, "IMAGINE...HOW THE COLD-
EYED RULERS OF COMMUNIST CHINA MUST BE REACTING TO THE
SUDDEN DISCOVERY THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S FREEDOM OF ACTION
TO NEGOTIATE HAS BEEN UNDERMINED - IN THIS CASE, BY
THE BOMBING BAN. CONTINUATION OF THE BOMBING WAS JUDGED
NO LESS IN PEKING THAN IN WASHINGTON AS AN ESSENTIAL
PART OF THE COMPLICATED FORMULA TO SLOW THE PRO-HANO

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: SAIGON INFO BANGKOK
BUDAPEST
CANBERRA
JAKARTA
MANILA

MOSCOW
PHNOM PENH
SEOUL
TAIPEI
TOKYO
VIENTIANE
WARSAW
WELLINGTON
BIEN HOA
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